



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

As I explained at the Senate Commerce Committee's FCC Oversight Hearing earlier this year, resolving this issue will require all the stakeholders to work together and make hard decisions to reach consensus on the best path forward. Everybody agrees that the goal of any changes should be supporting broadband in rural areas. With that in mind, I directed my staff and staff members from the Commission's Wireline Bureau to meet with stakeholders in the rate-of-return community. We have encouraged all stakeholders in the rate-of-return community to work together to develop an approach that both has the widespread support of the rate-of-return community and meets the principles unanimously outlined by the Commission in our April 2014 *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*.

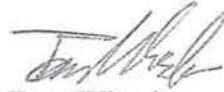
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To that end, it is encouraging that the stakeholders appear to have come to a consensus on the notion of a "two-path" approach to reforming the program that is comprised of both a model-based path and updates to the existing mechanisms, but work remains with respect to the details of how we would update those support mechanisms. We will continue to engage with stakeholders, and we expect them to continue to engage with us, to ensure that any reform of these universal service programs successfully delivers on our shared goal of more robust broadband throughout rural America.

Page 2—The Honorable Doug LaMalfa

I look forward to working with you to make continued progress on the deployment of broadband to consumers throughout rural areas a reality.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
U.S. House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Tom Wheeler



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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Tom Wheeler



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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Tom Wheeler



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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
1541 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lucas:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Frank D. Lucas

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. House of Representatives
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lummis:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Page 2—The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis

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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Michael McCaul
U.S. House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCaul:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 27, 2015

The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

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